



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Two, Issue 5a



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

I would like to invite you to celebrate one of the most charming neighborhoods in the City by attending the Belle Grove Square House Tour on December 11 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale at City Hall, City Administrative Offices, the Historical Society, the Carroll Arts Center, the Hickory Stick and various downtown merchants. Tour tickets are \$10 per person in advance and \$12 at the door. There will be a silent auction hosted by the Westminster Community of Shalom and Holiday entertainment by the Homespun Ringers, Children's Chorus, Winters Mill High School Carolers, Westminster High School String ensemble, Carroll County Celtic Music Group, Westminster Municipal Band, Mountain Dulcimer and Brethren Ringers. Your House Tour ticket will entitle you to a 10% discount at area restaurants for the entire weekend.

Other holiday events in Westminster on December 11 include the Christmas Farmers' Market at the Agricultural Center, Carroll County Festival of Trees at Town Mall, Holiday Tour of Carroll County Farm Museum and the "Christmas Carol" at the Carroll Arts Center.

While you are visiting the City, please stop by to see some of the recent additions to our Cityscape:

- Bart Walter's "Wild Imaginings" sculpture at the Westminster branch of the Carroll County Public Library which completes the renovation of the external park space.
- The Community Building at City Park was completed and dedication this year. Occupied by Fallfest staff and volunteers, this building will provide community meeting space and a refreshment stand for park participants. This is a Project Open Space project.
- Also at City Park is the tot lot donated by the Westminster Lion's Club and dedicated this past spring.
- Project Open Space also funded a replacement of the Bishop's Garth Park which was completed in September.
- The first four town homes in the Union Crossing development on Union Street were constructed and offered for sale. The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremony for this Community Development Block Grant project along with the Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape Project. See page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

We have also welcomed two new partners to our community: Dr. Roger Casey is the new President of McDaniel College and Dave Roush is the newly elected Third District Commissioner. Dr. Casey has announced his goal of developing a partnership with the City and the first activity in achieving this goal was a Tour of Main Street businesses and shops on Homecoming weekend. Dr. Casey was accompanied by his five vice-presidents, several members of the Board of Trustees and the Mayor and Common Council.

We congratulate Commissioner-elect Roush and look forward to working with him as the new Board of Commissioners begins a new term.

As the holiday season is in full swing, I hope that each of you will take time to celebrate with family and friends and to spend a moment of reflection for all that we have to be thankful for during these difficult times.

The President and members of the common Council join me and City staff in wishing you and yours a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mayor

Union Crossing Homes Ready For Sale!

The NEW Union Crossing town homes are completed!!

The homes will be sold to low to moderate-income families. Union Crossing is located near the intersection of Union Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, adjacent to McDaniel College.

The townhouses were built utilizing modular construction designed to match the existing architecture and fabric of the neighborhood. The homes are 1,450 square feet with three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, and a full, unfinished basement.

This subsidy will reduce the purchase price to \$174,600 - \$176,000, which is affordable to households at or below 80 percent of area median income.

For information on purchasing one of these homes, OR if you want to see one first hand, contact Sandy Anderson in the Administrative Offices building at 56 West Main Street, or by calling 410-751-5505 or by email at sanderson@westgov.com.

The homes are equipped with Energy Star appliances and each home has a covered front porch, back yard and two dedicated parking spaces. The home sales prices will range from \$207,900 to \$209,900, with a soft second mortgage in the amount of \$33,333 provided by the HOME funds.



The Historic Westminster Holiday House Tour



Since 1996, the City of Westminster Historic District Commission has organized and conducted the Historic Westminster Holiday House Tour in some of our historic neighborhoods. The Tour has always been a tradition to bring people together to enjoy the history of local homes, the entertainment of local residents and the joy of the holidays. This year, the Tour will be held in Historic Belle Grove Square.

How does the Tour work? Your ticket comes with a guide book to the Tour (given to you at the Tour). **You can start the tour wherever you want!** Once you pick a house to "explore," you are welcomed into the house by the homeowners and the docents (docents are tour assistants). Where you can walk inside the house is up to the individual homeowner. But it's always fun to see inside these hidden treasures! Please be respectful of their beautiful homes!

Throughout the tour there are various local musicians performing. The times of the performances will be announced November 8, 2010. The list of performers is below. There are refreshments available where the tickets are sold at each of the Churches. After the tour, you can use your ticket to get a discount for dinner at a restaurant in Downtown Westminster. This is the first year there is also a "Silent Auction" held as part of the Event! Please visit the Church of the Brethren during the tour to check out the Auction. All proceeds from the Auction go to the operation of the Westminster Community Center. We hope to see you December 11th!

HISTORIC HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR DETAILS

Saturday, December 11, 2010

3pm to 8pm

Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood

A rare chance to see inside some of Westminster's hidden historic treasures!

Tour Tickets

\$10/person in advance (adult or child)

\$12/person at the door (adult or child)

Silent Auction Hosted By
Westminster Community of Shalom

Holiday Entertainment
Homespun Ringers
Children's Chorus of Carroll County
Winters Mill High School Carolers
Westminster High School String Ensemble
Carroll County Celtic Music Group
Westminster Municipal Band
Mountain Dulcimer
Brethren Ringers

Questions? Please contact Melissa Hynes at mhynes@westgov.com or at 410-848-7967.

Visit www.westminstermd.gov for more info.

Carroll Arts Center Events: December

Friday, December 3, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 4, 3pm and 7:30pm: "A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas." What do you get when you pair the beloved animated holiday film with a live performance of the film's Vince Guaraldi jazz score? You get a fabulously festive show featuring the renowned Eric Byrd Trio! This annual presentation is always very popular with families as well as discriminating jazz aficionados and is a great way to celebrate the season. Before or after the show you'll be able to enjoy our 13th annual Festival of Wreaths. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.

Friday, December 10, 8pm; Saturday, December 11, 3pm and 8pm: Maryland Ensemble Theatre presents "A Christmas Carol." The acclaimed Maryland Ensemble Theatre brings Charles Dickens' holiday classic to life. Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim are lovingly portrayed in this familiar story of hope and second chances. The whole family will enjoy this beautifully staged production celebrating the true spirit of Christmas. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.



FREE Holiday Movies

Visit the Carroll Arts Center for the FREE holiday classic film series! Each movie will have seating on a first-come-first-served basis; no reservations will be accepted.

December 1st:

"White Christmas" 1pm

"William Wegman's Fay's Twelve Days of Christmas" 4:30pm

"Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer" 5:15pm

December 2nd:

"George Balanchine's Nutcracker" 10:30am

"It's a Wonderful Life" 1:30pm

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966) 5pm

"A Christmas Story" 6:15pm

December 5th:

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town" 2:45pm

"National Geographic: Animal Holiday" 12:30pm

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966) 2pm

"Frosty the Snowman" 1:15pm



Carroll Arts Center Galleries

December 9, 2010 to January 8, 2011:

"Gallery of Gifts"

open from 10am to 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 8pm on Thursday.



The Carroll Arts Center continues their annual tradition by transforming their Tevis Gallery into the "Gallery of Gifts" during the holiday shopping season. This special cash and carry exhibit will resemble an outdoor craft market rather than a traditional gallery exhibit, as artists display their festive wares in booth-style settings. The show will continue feature the same level of artistic quality that Arts Center visitors have come to expect. There will be a wide variety of hand-crafted creations from inexpensive stocking stuffers to truly elegant special gifts. Local artists combine with regional artists for a distinct flavor of fashion, fantasy and whimsy. To lessen the holiday stress, there will be complimentary gift wrapping for all purchases!

The shopping frenzy will begin at a meet the artists' reception on Thursday, December 9 from 5 to 7 pm. There will be complimentary wine, cheese, hot chocolate and holiday confections and Arts Council members will receive a 10% discount.

13th Annual Festival of Wreaths

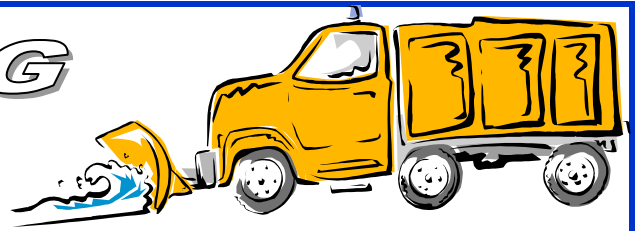


December 1—5, 10am to 8pm daily except Sunday Noon—4. The Festival of Wreaths has been a Westminster holiday tradition for 13 years. This silent auction of more than 200 uniquely decorated theme wreaths is always a

hit. Come and see all the amazing creativity on display. Vote for your favorite wreaths. While you are here you can bid on wreaths for yourself and as gifts for others. Sponsored by PNC Bank and the Carroll County Times. Decorator registration begins October 1st, cost is FREE.

SNOW PLOWING

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The City of Westminster is committed to providing safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic under all conditions. The following information is provided to answer questions about our snow removal operations.

How many miles of road need to be cleared in the City? 62.002 miles.

Are there any snow emergency routes within the City limits? No.

Once snow begins to fall, how long does it take the Street Department to begin work? Two salt/plow trucks are on the streets within one hour of notification and ten salt/plow trucks are on the streets within two hours of notification.

How long does it take to salt the streets? Three hours.

How much salt does it take to clear City streets? 50-100 tons per trip.

How much salt is used for a 3 inch snowfall and what is the average cost? 150-300 tons. This year salt is \$61.30 a ton, so material cost is between \$9,195 - \$18,390. Payroll cost is about \$400 per regular hour and \$600 per overtime hour. Total cost is between \$15,000 to \$24,000 for a 10-hour period.

How much salt did we use last year at what cost? Last year 1,642.39 tons of salt traveled 9,828 lane miles at a cost of \$75.60 a ton, totaling \$87,582.60.

When does the Street Department begin plowing? When the accumulation reaches 2.0 to 2.5 inches.

How long does it take for plowing operations? It takes 10 salt/plow trucks and 10 additional trucks approximately five to six hours to remove every three inches of snow.

How fast does a snow plow travel? 5-7 miles per hour is the average speed of a snow plow which limits damage and keeps the snow off the sidewalk.

In what order are the streets plowed? Main collector roads are addressed first, with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. These main roads are Bennett Ave, Bond St, N/S Center St, Colonial Ave S, Cranberry Rd, Distillery Dr, Emerald Hill Ln, Englar Rd, E/W Green St, John St, Luther Dr, E/W Main St, Malcom Dr, Pennsylvania Ave, Royer Rd, Tahoma Farm Rd, Timber Ridge Dr, Uniontown Rd, Washington Rd, and WMC Dr. Side streets are next and then dead end streets. The main roads must be cleared even if it means the side streets remain unplowed. Parking lots are cleared after all the streets are finished.

Does the amount of snowfall impact this order? Yes. Once 8-10 inches of snow has fallen, some alleys may not be cleared until the event is over. After 15 inches of snow, the City will concentrate on keeping two-lane traffic on all main roads and one-lane traffic in all developments, while leaving some alleys unclear until the end of the event. The Utilities, Water and Waste Water Departments provide vehicles and drivers to assist the Streets Department during heavy snowfalls.

What do I do if my driveway is blocked because of plowed snow? All snow plows angle the same way—to the driver's right—and when going by your home they will push the snow in front of the driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until the crews have done their final cleanup on the street.

How long do I have to clear my sidewalk? Per City Code, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after a storm and keeping them clear.